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GERMANTOWN ACADEMY.

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THE GERMANTOWN ROAD AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS.

BY TOWNSEND WARD.

(Continued from page 20.)

PART SIXTH.

In the beginning of the last Walk, p. 2, I gave the location of the Moravian School as on Wagner's grounds, almost opposite Fisher's Lane. One of those copious and minute diaries, kept by the Moravians, says, under the date of 22d of May, 1747, "John Bechtel's house, which we use for a school, is next to Theobald Endt's house, and also near to old John Stephen Benezet's." Endt's house is that occupied by J. Handsberry, No. 4638. The Endts are mentioned in deeds of 1729 and 1745 as saddlers. In the Register at Bethlehem, January, 1742, Endt is given as a clockmaker, but it is not probable that he did much in this line. In the early part of this century the properties, No. 4630 to No. 4638 inclusive, belonged to a well-known family named Forbes. William Forbes erected the house occupied by David H. Conyngham.

A few days after the battle of Germantown the British Army began to concentrate in Philadelphia, and closely fol-

lowing them as they withdrew, a troop of American horse came down the Germantown Road. Reaching Indian Queen Lane, this troop overhauled a British surgeon, who was afoot, and who had just dressed the wounds of three prisoners, American officers, in the house of Widow Hess. As he was about to be captured, W. Fryhoffer intervened, explaining the services that had been rendered by him; whereupon he was told that he could walk to the city at his leisure. "The same troop, advancing a little further, encountered a Quaker-looking man in a chaise, who, in trepidation, making a short turn at Bowman's Lane, upset, and thus exposed a large basketful of plate. He and his treasure were captured, and ordered off to headquarters."

The house on the N. E. corner of Indian Queen, or old Bowman's Lane, and Knox Street, was the last place of residence of Louis Rene Jacques Joseph Binel, whose untimely death some two years ago was the result of being run over by cars, at Fifteenth and Prime Streets. This accomplished Frenchman was born in Brittany, where his grandfather, a friend of the Marquis de la Rouerie, the Gen. Armand of our Revolution, had lived. He had often seen the portrait of the Marquis, which yet hangs in one of the town halls of his native province, and, on visiting the Hall of our Historical Society, he at once recognized the beautiful one on its walls. Mr. Binel was bred to the law. In the year 1856 he visited the Crimea, then a seat of war, and at Constantinople made the acquaintance of Mons. Gardel, whose school for ladies, in Chestnut Street above Broad, is well remembered. Mons. Gardel told him that he had then retired from the pursuit of teaching, and that, after his travels should be ended, it was his intention to pass the remainder of his days in Germantown, of the charms of which he could not speak too highly. Some years now passed by, and the unfortunate Maximilian had become Emperor of Mexico. Mr. Binel was appointed by the Emperor Napoleon III. as "Legal Adviser under the Code Napoleon," to accompany the new-made Emperor to his short-lived empire. When thrones fall there are many exiles, so, when this one fell, Mr. Binel, recalling the account

he had heard of Germantown, at once repaired to the place, and there, as a teacher of the French language, passed the remainder of his life. His ability was great, as was also his capacity for endurance, and these resulted in much advantage to his pupils. In conversation with a friend, Mr. Binel said it was a part of his duty, in Mexico, to pass an hour or more in the morning with their Majesties, explaining what he had been performing in the line of his duty. And, in this connection, he said the Empress, the unhappy Carlotta, seemed to be of a much quicker apprehension than the Emperor—that she never failed to at once comprehend his meaning, as he would explain the defect of some Mexican law, and the remedial effect of a proposed article of the Code.

Further out the lane, nearly as far as to the Township Line Road, the land is a level plain, as it also is out Manheim Street, as far as Mr. Wister Price's country seat. Watson says: "All the British Infantry were on the commons, about where" Col. John Morgan Price's seat was. This was on Manheim Street to the west of Wayne. The large numbers required a considerable space, and, therefore, they must also have covered the favourable ground on the western part of Indian Queen Lane.

On the north side of Indian Queen Lane is a Potter's Field, situated "about 152 perches southwestward from the Germantown Main Street, and purchased for the use of, and as a Strangers' Burying Ground, or Potter's Field, for all Germantown, to serve for a burial place for all strangers, Negroes, and Mulattoes as die in any part of Germantown forever." It was purchased on the 23d of July, 1755, for £5.10, and contained 140 perches. It lies west of Wayne Street, about where Pulaski crosses, and the region about it is called "Pulaski Town." The little piece of land, the Potter's Field, was cut out of the southern side of the large lot, No. 6, which fell to John Blickers, and whose southern boundary is Indian Queen Lane.

At the S. E. corner of lot No. 6, which, of course, is the S. W. corner of the lane and the Main Street, stands the respectable-looking, double house, erected by Joseph Bullock

for his residence, and afterwards occupied by his son, Dr. Bullock. It is said of this house that it reposes upon the foundations of a prior one, the heavy walls and arches of which still remain, and that under the ponderous arches Christopher Saur cast his first type. The house and lot were one of the properties of which the second Saur was so unjustly deprived. It is now owned by the "Trinity Lutheran Church," whose edifice stands next north of it, and the house is its parsonage, occupied by its minister, the Rev. Luther E. Albert, D.D. A house that formerly stood north of it, on the ground held by the church, was, near a century ago, the residence of Dr. Justus Fox, a worthy citizen of that day. He had a son "Mauney"—Emanuel Fox, who became engaged in the manufacture of lampblack. Emanuel's son, George, continued this business, and besides was noted as a great fancier of bees. He was the last of the family who occupied the paternal domain. These Foxs were so conscientious in the manufacture of their product, as to have unconsciously added a leaf of laurel to the wreath of Germantown. In the language of commerce, the term "Germantown lampblack" is still used to designate the highest grade of that article.

The Trinity Lutheran Church, an offshoot of the early Lutheran Church further up the old road, was established in 1836, and held its first services in a brick building at the corner of Main and Mill Streets. On the 28th of February of that year, its vestry was installed by the Rev. Dr. Mayer, of the Church in Race Street below Sixth. Its first pastor was the Rev. Wm. N. Scholl. The first sermon was preached on the 7th of April, 1836. The Rev. S. M. Finckel, D.D., was the second pastor, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Wm. F. Eyster. The present pastor, the Rev. Mr. Albert, succeeded in the autumn of 1851. In the ample burial ground one may observe the grave of Prof. Martin L. Stoever, of Gettysburg, and that, also, of that very tall man, James Reeside, who died in 1842. He was called "Admiral," because, in his day, he directed the movement of stage coaches, as, earlier, Nelson had directed that of ships, or later, Thomas

A. Scott, of cars. More should be said of a man who was conspicuous in his day, but I will content myself with relating a single incident in his career. In a sitting posture his great height was not apparent. One evening at the theatre, a person alongside of him took offence, for some cause, and made a threat. Upon this Reeside began to rise, but long before he had attained his full altitude, the threatener, filled with consternation at the spectacle, had placed himself at a most respectful distance from him. There is a mound over the remains of Mrs. Stellwagen, believed to have been of the age of one hundred and one. She saw Washington at the Skippack, when the armies were around Philadelphia. One tombstone, of peculiar interest, bears upon it the name and time of birth of an aged man, destined to be laid beneath it. As he has already numbered ninety-three years, the inscription, ere long, may be completed. So near the avenue as to be easily seen, is a large stone cross, a monolith, about twenty-five feet in height, and resembling those often seen in Ireland and in England. It is said to be the only one of the kind in this country. It was erected to the memory of Henry Goodman and his wife, who may be considered to be the founders of this church.

Before Coulter Street is reached, we are at the place of residence of Captain John Stadelman. It is on the south side of the new market house, about where No. 4718 now is. With his parents, he had previously lived in the old Saur house. He commanded the Germantown Blues, a company which did service at Camp Dupont, when, in the war of 1812, it was feared the British might march on Philadelphia. The few lingering remnants of the company have only recently passed away, Stadelman among the last—and it was only about three years ago that he heard the trumpet call. After the custom of the town he reached the age of eighty-seven. He was a representative of an old Germantown family, now almost extinct, and throughout his life most faithfully adhered to the ancient customs of his people. He was eminent as a fisherman, and ever at Whitsuntide would he sally forth to snare a mess of the finny tribe, which he did with a gusto

that Isaac Walton would have relished. Christophel, or "Stuffle" Bockius, as he was universally called, at the N. W. corner of Coulter and the Main Streets, though dead long ago, is well remembered as a farmer, stricken in years, and bent in form. Notwithstanding this, he was the terror of those boys who crossed his fields on their way to and from the Academy. He, too, was a good representative of the olden time of the village. He owned about twenty acres, extending back to the Coulter property, and north from Coulter Street.

The drawing of lots of "October, 1683," held in the cave of Pastorius, in Philadelphia, was spoken of on p. 373 of Vol. V. The land was purchased on the 12th of September, 1683, and was laid out and surveyed by the Surveyor-General on the 22d of March, 1684. Secretary Markham issued the patent for Germantown on the 3d of April, 1689, and the next day, the 4th of April, a drawing was held for the allotment of "The fifty-five Germantown Town Lots, as originally located 29th of October, 1687." An equal number of these lots, that is, twenty-seven and a half, were on each side of the Main Street. "N. B. Each lot being with its appurtenant side-lot, Fifty Acres." Lot No. 7, on the west side of the Main Street, fell to the Frankford Company. In the early records there is some confusion as to the numbers, arising, perhaps, from their being duplicated, a purchaser sometimes taking more than one lot, consequently Lot No. 7 is sometimes spoken of as No. 6. There was laid out and reserved on the eastern front of Lot No. 7, "on the west side of the said Town, one acre of land for a Market, Town House, Burying Place, and other Public Buildings, uses, and behoofs whatsoever," the said seventh lot "then being the midst or centre of the above said Town." The site of this early seat of local self-government is, therefore, well enough defined to be determined by an examination of early deeds, for it lies between Blicker's Lot, No. 6, and the present Meeting House of Friends, which is on Lot No. 8, which, it is stated, fell by the allotment to Jacob Shoemaker. Here, then, was where the Court was held, under authority of the charter granted by Penn on the 12th of August, 1689, and here was

it continued to be held until the year 1703–4, when it was removed to what is now known as Market Square, for the town had grown, and this place had then become more nearly its centre. Little connected with this brief existence may now be gathered, unless it be from the Minutes of the Burgesses. This is in the German language, and, being one of our most ancient records, has recently been deposited, by order of the Court, with the Historical Society. Another volume, the Minutes of the Court of Record, has been lost. A copy, perhaps not entire, belongs to the Society, and extracts from it are printed on pp. 243–258, of a volume entitled "Collections," issued by the Society in 1853. A deed, 28th of Nov. 1693, for part of the lower burying-ground, has on it the seal of the Corporation Court of the early time. This is a trefoil, bearing around it "Sigiilum Germanopolitanum, 1691."

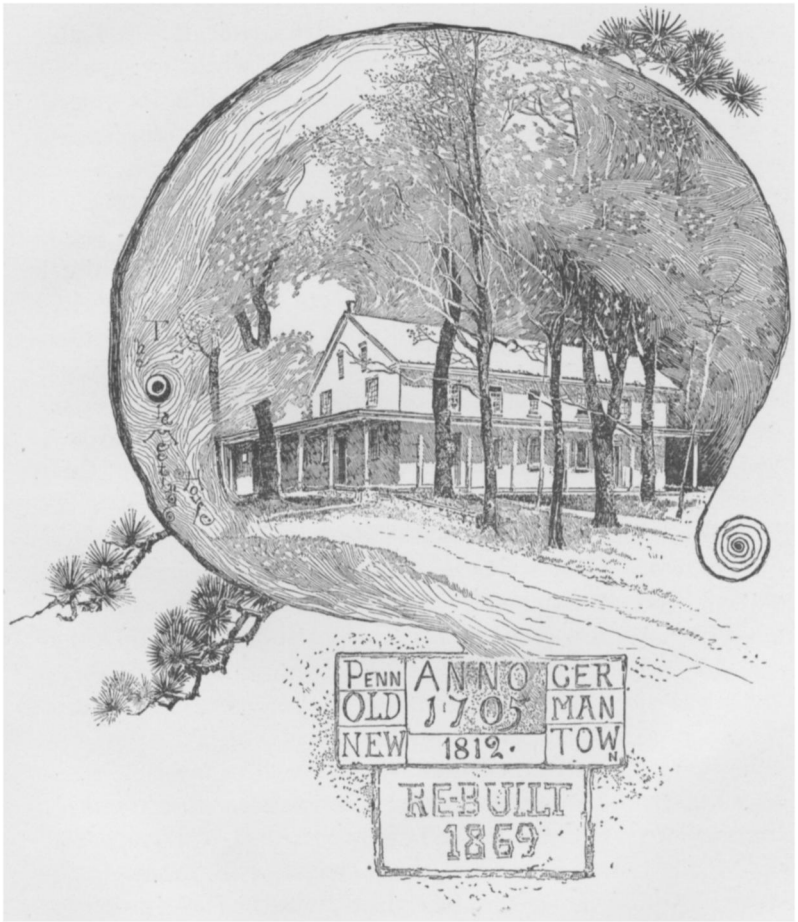
We now come to the site of the Meeting House of Friends. Although but a "Preparative," or a primary meeting, as the world's people might call it, there are few in the country so largely attended. It is now attached to the Monthly Meeting of Frankford, and, by consequence, to the Quarterly Meeting of Abington, which carries it, along with all the other Quarterly Meetings, to be gathered at the Yearly Meeting held at Philadelphia. Here we have an organization quite as potential in the preservation of discipline and good order as that of any other church. The Germantown Friends, while meeting at each other's houses, before their meeting house was built, issued their famous testimony against slavery, in the year 1688. An account of this may be found in "*The Friend*," Vol. xlviii., 1875. But it is time to speak of their lot of land. In Matthias Zimmerman's explanation of the original location, etc., 1746, copied by Christian Lehman, 1766, it is set down that in the allotment of 1689, Lot No. 8 fell to Jacob Shoemaker. This may be an error, for "in a deed dated 1st Month, 4th, 1690, Abraham Isaac op den Graef conveyed two lots to Jacob Shoemaker, and in 1693 he (Jacob Shoemaker) conveyed them to Friends. In the deed of conveyance, which is still extant, I find these

words: 'Being fifty acres, or a whole lot (three perches square, next to Jacob Isaacs van Bebber only excepted, which the said Jacob Shoemaker herebefore hath granted and conveyed unto the Quakers, so called, for their meeting place, and are always to be fenced by the owners thereof.')" As op den Graef held the lot so very short a time, it is probable that Zimmerman did not think it worth while to mention his name, but gave that of Shoemaker as actually drawing it.

The "three perches square" are yet well enough defined. They front on the avenue, and extend as far north as the Friends' Free Library. On the south side there is a wall, now beginning a little to the west of the street, and at its beginning there are supports for hinges, where, no doubt, hung a gate of entrance. To the west of these supports, lines in the wall mark another place of entrance, perhaps to the graveyard. This aperture is now walled up, as any one may see. The principal entrance to the meeting house was from the Main Street, a little to the north of a large buttonwood tree. No doubt the first meeting house was erected on the "three perches square" immediately on the presentation of it to the Friends. It is supposed to have been of wood, and that its foundation still exists under ground, as a part of such foundation wall was exposed a few years ago in digging. It stood about twenty-five feet back from the street. In 1703 a new building was projected, as is shown by a subscription paper. This was erected in 1705, and was of stone, on the same site. It was in this building that the first Isaac Norris died in 1735. The building stood until 1812, when the third meeting house was built, not, however, upon the same site, but to the west, near where the school-house now is. In 1871 it disappeared, and the fourth meeting house was erected, still further to the west. An old tablet from the third house has been preserved and placed in front of the committee room of the present one.

PENN	ANNO.	GER
OLD	1705	MAN
NEW	1812	TOW.

In the course of time most of the fifty acres of land which the Friends had bought was sold by them. A few years ago


PENN
OLD
NEW
ANNO
1705
1812.
GER
MAN
TOWN
RE-BUILT
1869

a part of it was repurchased for a burying ground, and conveyed to the Society, with a condition that should burials cease and the remains be removed, the lot of ground thus presented should remain open for the public.

As long ago as perhaps fifty years Friends had a library attached to their meeting, and about twelve years ago the late Alfred Cope and others began to build upon this foundation. They erected the building of stone on the north side, and stored it with valuable works, to the number of about three thousand volumes. Besides this, Alfred Cope endowed it with funds, the interest to be used for the purchase of books, that its sphere of usefulness might be permanently secured. The number of volumes now approaches eleven thousand. They are of unusual excellence, among them are many French and German works of standard merit, but there are no novels. The library building stands, as I believe, not on lot No. 8, but on the southern part of lot No. 9, which was drawn by Jacob Isaacs van Bebber. This original Germantowner soon left the place, but his descendants have made the name honourably conspicuous elsewhere. One became a Judge of the Supreme Court of Delaware, and another, as I am told, is a physician of great note in Baltimore. "The Van Bebbers of Maryland have been distinguished in all the wars and at the bar; and at the Falls of the Kanawha, Van Bebber's rock, a crag jutting out at a great height over the river, still preserves the memory and recalls the exploits of one of the most daring Indian fighters of Western Virginia."

The library is under the charge of William Kite, a Friend, as so many of his race in this country have been. His ancestor was James Kite, who came here several years before Penn, and took up land under the Duke of York. This lay to the west of the Schuylkill, about midway between Fairmount dam and Belmont, and is now in the Park. With the tender conscience of a "Friend" he would not hold it until he had paid the Indians what they deemed the value of it. In 167– he married Mary, a daughter of William Warner, no doubt an ancestor of him who, as lord of the soil occupied by the "Colony in Schuylkill," was styled by them their

"Baron," and to whom ever on the first of June they yielded the fixed rent-charge, "three fresh sun perch." The estate of the Warners was large, and, on the death of the last possessor, some thirty years ago, the considerable part that still remained was added by the late Owen Jones to his already extensive possessions. In 1703 one of James Kite's sons married a daughter of Hugh Peters, who, though living in the vicinity of Peters's Island, was no relation of the Secretary Peters, who came here later.

Very long before the origin of the library spoken of above, there was another "Germantown Library," the only evidence of which is in the following letter, and a certificate bearing the seal of the library, both discovered lately. The seal has upon it the date of 1745. The letter, which is in reference to the purchase of books from a publisher and importer of English books, tends to show the existence of an English element in the population, and perhaps, also, to show that some desire among the German-speaking element, for English reading, was already making headway.

GERMAN TOWN, Sept. 22, 1764.

To Mr. David Hall,

Sir,

Enclosed you receive the order of the Directors of our Library upon our Treasurer Balltes Reser for the Payment of the sum Due for the Books they lately bought of you for our Library. They have ordered the Treasurer to call on you & pay the contents of the s[d] order, and charge me to acquaint you herewith & to send you the enclosed order.

Sir, I remain with due respect, yrs.

Christ[n] Lehman,

Secretary to Library.

The house No. 4772 was the place of residence of Albert Ashmead, a son of John, and grandson of William, who was a brother of Captain John Ashmead of the Revolution. This Captain John made one hundred voyages, three of them to the East Indies, and during the Revolution he was successful in bringing in cargoes of much needed powder.

Albert, the great-nephew, had a turn for military affairs, and in time became Captain of the Troop of Germantown Cavalry. In early days it seems to have been an easier matter to keep up a troop of horse than now, for almost every one had a horse, and in those days men indulged in but one luxury at a time. The life which Captain Albert led was conducive to longevity, for he reached the age of eighty years.

As every one has heard of "Germantown Waggons," some notice should be given of an improvement so notable. The introduction of carriage building in the village, was as follows. William Ashmead, a worker of iron, observing the heavy build and lumbering appearance of the better sort of imported coaches of his day, bethought him to make one on a plan of his own, light built, and with an open front. He did this, and it was at once much used, and in constant demand. A gentleman from Maryland made an offer of £120. for it. This was accepted, although it had been the intention of the builder to retain it for his own use. John Ashmead, a son, saw fit that he should become a carriage builder that he might reap a promised harvest. He built some, and very soon orders came for still more. This was not long after the Revolution. Just then, too, Mr. Bringhurst, a chaise builder, went largely into the business. Coaches and chariots were made for £200, and phaetons for £100. The William Ashmead spoken of, was an ingenious man, and made for himself a plough with a wrought iron mould, instead of the customary board. This great improvement was much admired by Gen. La Fayette, who purchased four of the ploughs for his estate, La Grange. The improvement was soon adopted by another person who made the mould-board of cast iron.

John Ashmead, the father of Albert, lived in the house next to the north, No. 4774. He always attended Quaker Meeting, and was of a happy and cheerful disposition, but he was excessively fond of music; this so grieved the people of that day, that his friends warned him of a probable fate that awaited him—ruin from neglected business. When the British Army, on its march to Philadelphia, entered Ger-

mantown, he was a boy of twelve, and he beheld the host of twenty thousand men moving down the Main Street while sitting, unmolested, at the door of his father's house. The order seemed to be complete; there swept before his eyes the grand array of Britain—the Highlanders in their kilts and plaids, the stalwart grenadiers in martial scarlet, with their burnished arms, the proud cavalry, the mercenary Hessians, and the corps of loyal refugees in their uniform of green—all marshalled by their dashing officers—the chivalry of England. They came with pomp, but not with every circumstance of glorious war, for there was no display of colours, and not a sound of music to be heard,—like a vast machine in perfect order, the army moved in silence most profound. The late Winthrop Sargent used to believe, but perhaps without sufficient reason, that this was a custom of armies when operating in a land that was in revolt. That it was as in earlier ages, when holy church would lay a kingdom under interdict—so then, as he thought, the theory was held, that the sovereign, filled with grief at the "cruel and unnatural rebellion," as it was called in his proclamations, and desiring "to restore to the people the happy condition of being free subjects of a free state," could not permit a colour to be displayed before disloyal eyes, nor a band to discourse inspiring airs for rebel ears to hear. In all its progress as the army passed along "there was no violence and no offence." Men occasionally dropped out of the line, and asked for milk or cider, which Ashmead's father, guardedly standing within his door, gave them. When the cider had run low, a young officer made a request for some, which was given him, but with an apology for its muddy condition, together with an explanation of the cause. He expressed his surprise at the soldiers' exaction, and said it should be corrected. "Quickly there appeared a sentinel before the house, who kept his place till superseded by another, and he by still another, for six or eight changes, until the whole army had passed."

"Captain J. C.," perhaps Craig, saw them later, and writes: "The Grenadiers, with Lord Cornwallis at their head, led the van when they entered the city; their tranquil look and digni-

fied appearance have left an impression on my mind, that the British Grenadiers were inimitable. As I am relating the feelings and observations of a boy then only ten years old, I shall mention many things, perhaps, not worth relating; for instance, I went up to the front rank of the Grenadiers when they had entered Second Street, when several of them addressed me thus: 'How do you do, young one—how are you, my boy?'— in a brotherly tone, that seems still to vibrate on my ear; then reached out their hands, and severally caught mine and shook it, not with an exulting shake of conquerors, as I thought, but with a sympathizing one for the vanquished. The Hessians composed a part of the vanguard, and followed in the rear of the Grenadiers—their looks to me were terrific —their brass caps, their mustachios, their countenances, by nature morose, and their music, that sounded better English than they themselves could speak—plunder!—plunder!—plunder!—gave a desponding, heart-breaking effect, as I thought, to all; to me it was dreadful beyond expression."

A few days after this, when the battle occurred, young Ashmead, as any of us would, took refuge in the cellar of Delaplaine's house, on the N. E. corner of Schoolhouse Lane. When the sounds of the guns had ceased, he sallied forth to gather trophies, and secured, as his share of the spoil, two cannon balls. One was English, large, and the other, smaller, American. The former is still preserved by Dr. William Ashmead. At the time of John Ashmead's early marriage it was predicted that "he could not live to hear the next whip-poor-wills," for he was subject to hemorrhages. These, which continued throughout his life, did not, however, seem to have shortened it, for he attained the age of eighty-three years. His wife, who was not thus troubled, survived him a number of years, and attained the age of eighty-seven.

The house on the "Old Germantown Road" numbered 4782 has attached to it associations so interesting as to require more than a few words. It was built in 1772–3 by David Deshler who had come here from Baden, where his father, whose wife was a sister of Casper and John Wister, was an Aid-de-camp to the reigning Prince. Deshler engaged

in business in Philadelphia, on the north side of Market Street west of Grindstone Alley. His business affairs were on a large scale, and so widely extended as even to include a traffic with the distant East Indies, and they resulted in a considerable success. "As honest as David Deshler" is remembered as an old saying. At that time it was a dealer's pride to have everthing in his shop, and Mrs. Deshler, in one instance at least, aided in this. She bought for £5 from a butcher, who had cut himself, the receipt for a salve. This was first called "Butcher's Salve." From its excellence, it soon came to be known as Deshler's Salve, and, though more than a century has now elapsed, it has not yet lost either its name or its reputation. Dr. Wistar inserted the receipt in the Pharmacopœia. Adam Deshler, perhaps a cousin of David, also came here, and has left descendants. One of these is Mr. William G. Deshler, a resident of Columbus, Ohio. The descent of David Deshler's wife is interesting, for it is one of the many instances which show how strongly marked was the religious element in the earlier settlement of Pennsylvania. And this was her descent.

The Pequea Valley, besides having been the loved home of the Delawares, is still the chosen and fruitful region of their successors, the prosperous farmers of Lancaster County. At the first settlement of that region, which was then included in the old county of Chester, it was selected as the preferred residence of sundry French families of the persecuted Huguenots. They bore the names of Dubois, Boileau, Laroux, Lefevre; and some of their descendants remain there to the present day. The aforesaid names were also united with those of Charles De la Noe, a minister, and Andrew Doz, ancestor of Andrew D. Cash, and some other Frenchmen, who had come out under the influence of William Penn, to form vineyards, and to cultivate grapes, "up the Schuylkill." They, however, not succeeding to their expectations, felt prepared to avail themselves of a change to the Pequea Valley, which was brought about by the arrival, in 1712–13, of Madame Mary Ferree, or Mad. Warrinbauer, as she often called herself, a widow lady, having with her three sons and

three daughters, and coming there to seek an asylum from the persecutions of religious intolerance. She had lost her husband, a gentleman of eminence in France, by such persecution, and reaching England for refuge, found friendship in William Penn and Queen Anne, by whom she was aided in her embarkation for America. She became possessed of four thousand acres of the best land in Pequea, recommended by Penn's agent in this country, to her special notice, two thousand acres of which came by a grant from Penn, and the other half by purchase from him. To this place all these French people went for settlement, and were there heartily welcomed by the Indian King Tanawa. When he died, soon after, all the Huguenots attended his burial; and his grave was marked with a pile of stones, which long remained to mark the place, on what is now called Lafayette Hill, near Paradise. The church of All Saints now stands on what was the Indian burial ground. Isaac Lefevre, before named, had lost both his parents and all his family by the massacre in France, which followed the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He came to this country, went to Paradise and married Catherine, one of the daughters of Mad. Ferree.

In time a daughter of this marriage, Mary, grew to womanhood, and wedded David Deshler, and they were the couple who occupied the interesting house on the Germantown Road. A few words may be said as to some of their descendants. They had a daughter, Mary, who, on the 16th of June, 1763, married Ellis Lewis, whose name carries us from France to Wales, from the persecution of the Huguenots to the persecution of the Quakers. One of the most interesting of the old Quaker books, from its quaint and graphic style, is "An account of the convincement, exercises, services, and travels of that ancient servant of the Lord, Richard Davies." In it we meet with the name of Owen Lewis, ancestor of the above Ellis, of the Lloyds of Dolobran, of whom Thomas was one of Pennsylvania's earliest governors. Then come Thomas Cadwalader, the Evans, and Owens, Griffiths, and others, names long and well known here. The author speaks of having been at "the house of Owen Lewis, at Tyddyn y

Gareg near Dolegelle, in Merionethshire, a Man that had been in Commission of the Peace in Oliver's Days, and who was newly come from Prison from Bala." I have seen Dolegelle spelled "Dolgelly, pronounced Dòlgeth'-lee—one of the most lovely spots on the earth, if 'Christopher North' is any judge." These Welsh Quakers were respectable, and some of them more than well-to-do, people;—the great Lord Powys was a personal friend of some, and Edward Lord Herbert, a son, I suppose, of that remarkable character Lord Herbert of Cherbury, manfully stood by them in their difficulties. From Owen Lewis, the Ellis spoken of and also the late Chief Justice Ellis Lewis were descended, and the present Mr. David Lewis, so well known in Philadelphia, is of the same line.

It will be remembered that Sir William Howe had his head-quarters at Stenton, at the Battle of Germantown, October, 1777. The retreat of the Americans left him master of the field, whereupon he moved to Deshler's commodious house. It has been believed that while there, he had a visit from Prince William Henry, a Midshipman in the Royal Navy, afterward William IV. of England. As the Prince entered the Navy in 1779, and came to New York, accompanied by Admiral Digby in 1781, it is not possible that he was here in 1777. It would hardly be fair, however, to take away this story, without giving as good a one in return for it. And the other story is of one who was once in Germantown, and who, under other circumstances, might have been the Prince of Wales, and now, King of England.

In the last Walk, Richard-Plantagenet-Campbell Temple-Nugent-Brydges-Chandos-Grenville, Marquess of Chandos, was spoken of as a visitor to Germantown. He succeeded to the Dukedom of Buckingham and Chandos in July 1861. His grandmother, "only daughter of the third Duke of Chandos, was sole representative of Mary, Queen Dowager of France, and sister of Henry VIII., whose issue, under certain contingencies, were named by that sovereign's will in succession to the crown of England. Had the will of King Henry VIII. been carried into effect, the line of

royal succession would have been so changed that the present Duke of Buckingham would be King of England."

David Deshler lost his wife at the time of the Revolution, but by a prudent care he lived until 1792. From memoranda which exist, it seems his usual dress was of olive-coloured silk velvet, with knee buckles and silk stockings, bright silver shoe buckles, and the usual three-looped hat,—a costume that well became his handsome face and manly form. On his death the house was sold to Colonel Isaac Franks, of the Army of the Revolution. This officer was a first cousin of the celebrated wit and beauty, Miss Rebecca Franks, whose husband was Sir Henry Johnson Bart., and of her sister, Miss Abigail Franks, who married Andrew, brother of William Hamilton of the Woodlands. Col. Franks married Mary Davidson, and was the father of Judge Franks of Reading, and ancestor of some of the Jacobs of Lancaster County, and of a family named Davis, of Camden, N. J. He owned the property, and no doubt lived there until about the year 1804. When the Yellow Fever of 1793 drove so many away from Philadelphia, the officers of the Federal and State Governments of course went with them. From its salubrity, Germantown appeared to be the favorite place of retreat, and thus it was that Washington again appeared there. Col. Franks, who had sought a refuge in Bethlehem, was requested to rent his house to the President, to which he at once acceded. He made an inventory of what furniture, etc., was in the house, and afterwards on the 6th of November, 1793, furnished a detailed statement including the outlay to which he had been necessarily subjected. It will be observed that the statement does not deal in the ponderous figures of this advanced age. One item is:—"Cash paid for cleaning my house and putting it in the same condition the President received it in:"—$2.50. The entire amount, rent and all, was $131.56, and this included Col. Frank's travelling expenses from and back to Bethlehem, the hire of furniture and bedding for his own family, the loss of one flat-iron, valued at one shilling, of one large fork, four plates, three

ducks, four fowls, one bushel of potatoes, and one hundred of hay.

When in 1804 the time had come for Col. Franks to leave the house, it was purchased by Elliston and John Perot, who for many years used it as a summer residence. These gentlemen were of French descent. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, the Huguenots in France were harassed by fire and sword, and their ancestor being of that faith suffered much. He was condemned to prison for twenty-one days without food. There is a legend in the family to the effect, that every day a hen laid an egg at the grated window of his dungeon, and that this lenten diet sustained his life until he was liberated. Whether this be true or not, certain it is that the crest surmounting the arms of the Perots, is a sitting hen. Desiring a better supply of food than was afforded in French prisons, he left Rochelle in France, and went to New Rochelle in the Province of New York, where his son James was born. In 1710, this James Perot went to Bermuda, and his sons Elliston and John were therefore of that island, but at times they were engaged in business elsewhere, in different islands of the West Indies. At length they went to St. Eustatia, I suppose, before our war of Independence. In that war that island was captured by the British, who sold at auction the stores they found there. These, as I was once told by a French officer of our Revolution, were in such prodigious quantities, that the auction sales extended throughout the long term of three months. On this island the Perots were imprisoned for a time, but not fancying this, on being liberated, they left it, Elliston going to New York and John to Virginia. Philadelphia, however, ultimately proved to have attractions so superior as to allure them both to it, and here they were in business for many years. More recently a branch of the family has come from Bermuda to Baltimore. On the death of Elliston Perot, in 1834, the Deshler house became, by settlement, a part of his estate. His daughter, Hannah, had married Samuel B. Morris, of the old shipping firm of Waln & Morris, and he purchased the house in 1834.

Samuel B. Morris was of a family in our vicinity, now

almost innumerable. His descent was from Anthony Morris, mariner, who married Elizabeth Senior, about the year 1650. This was so near the time of Admiral Drake that we can imagine him to have been "a most fierce fighting man." He was soon lost at sea, leaving an only child, who bore his own name. This second Anthony Morris was baptized the 25th day of August, 1654, being then but two days old, "as saith the Parish Records of St. Dunstan's Stepney, of London, in the Kingdom of Great Britain." Anthony Morris the Third was born in London in March, 1682, and was brought by his father to New Jersey, when only one year old, and from him was descended Samuel Morris, Captain of the First City Troop, and member of the State in Schuylkill for fifty-four years, and Governor of it for forty-six years. He was grand-father of Samuel B. Morris spoken of above, who resided in the Deshler house until his death in 1859, leaving it by his will to his son Mr. Elliston Perot Morris, who now resides there.

The house is built of stone, and is about forty feet square, with considerable back buildings. The front part would have been wider had it not been for a plum tree which Deshler had not the heart to cut down. Alongside, to the south, commences the beautiful garden, one hundred feet wide, and extending westwardly four hundred and thirty-five feet, in which may be seen box bushes more than a century old. The interior of the house, of an unusual beauty of design and finish, remains almost unchanged from its earliest day. Not very many years ago the aged Jesse Waln, then of near Frankford, visited it. He entered the tea room, situated in the southwestern part of the building, and sat there for a time seemingly lost in thought. At last he spoke, and told Mr. Morris that when a school-boy at the old Academy, a schoolfellow of his was George Washington Parke Custis. He said that one day, towards evening, he went with him to the house, and on Washington's invitation, he remained to tea. A cup and saucer used on that occasion, and a dinner plate which was then in the house, are preserved in the beautiful china closet in the southwest corner of the old breakfast room. They are of those mentioned in the inven-

tory of Col. Franks, and came from his family to the present owner. This room is unchanged except as to its windows, which now have large plate glass instead of the former small panes, which interrupted the view of the lawn. A large piece of plate glass has been inserted in the door of the china closet, in order that its contents may be seen. The late Charles J. Wister, a school-boy at the Academy at the time spoken of by Jesse Waln, had his personal anecdote of Washington. It was, that one day the General halted in front of the school, and inquired of some boys there, "where Washington Parke Custis was?" It so happened that young Wister knew, and replying, he told him where. A relic preserved in the house is an ancient silver spoon that once belonged to the Elizabeth Senior who became the wife of the first Anthony Morris. Another relic is the letter which Washington wrote to Captain Samuel Morris of the First City Troop, conveying his thanks for their valuable services in the War of Independence. It remains in the original silver case, with the "pitcher-likeness" of Washington set in gold, which Capt. Dunlap of the Troop prepared and presented to "his friend" Capt. Morris. This relic was shown to me, and is in perfect preservation. While in this house Mrs. Washington raised hyacinths under glass, which was cut, and quite handsome in appearance. On leaving the house she presented the set of six to Catherine, the youngest daughter of David Deshler, who had married Robert Roberts, of the First City Troop. One of these pieces of glass is now in possession of Mr. Edmund H. McCullough, a descendant.

Early in this century the house No. 4784 was occupied by one of the Bringhurst family, related to the Ashmeads. It is now, and has been for a long time past, the residence of the Rev. Dr. Charles W. Shaffer, of St. Michael's Ev. Lutheran Church, who married a sister of Dr. William Ashmead.

Dr. William Ashmead has lived for many years in the house numbered 4788. It is supposed to have been built about 1790 by Mr. Morgan, perhaps him who was connected with Baynton and Wharton. Nathan Bunker, then an apprentice of Mr. Morgan, often visited there. In 1806 it was

Stairway Morris House

sold by Ann Morgan, Robert Waln and others. Thomas Armat came there in 1807, and died in 1831, but his family continued there until 1841. Armat was the Englishman who had come here from Loudoun Co. Va. He possessed a considerable property in Philadelphia, and used the returns from it with liberality. It is said of him that during the war of 1812, when calling upon tenants for rent, he would, if he found them unprepared, not only forego his claim, but would furnish them aid from his own resources. He gave the ground on which St. Luke's Church stands, and there was a room in his house called "the Minister's room," where the Rector was ever welcome. At his own cost he erected the hay-scales at Sixth Street and the Germantown Road, and those also at the Market Square, opposite his house, and gave them to certain beneficial societies to collect the returns as a part of their revenue, he, however, keeping them in repair. His son who built the house at Naglee's Hill, Loudoun, was spoken of in the Third Walk. In after years the elder Mr. Armat married a daughter of Mr. Smart, who had been a British officer.

The first school conducted by Moravians in this country was opened in the spring of 1742, in the house occupied by Count Zinzendorf. In March of that year he rented the house now numbered 4792, belonging to an early Ashmead. Two synods of the church were held there, and reports of them, printed by Franklin, are in the library of the Historical Society. On the 17th of April, 1742, "It was resolved to commence a school in Germantown on the model of the Brethren's Schools in Germany;" and on the 14th of May following, "The school was opened by Zinzendorf with twenty-five girls and teachers," Zinzendorf's fair daughter, the Countess Benigna, at this time just passing the age of sweet sixteen, being one of them. In June of the same year the school was transferred to Bethlehem, where it remains, and where no doubt its career of usefulness will be long contiued. Early in this century the house No. 4792 was the residence of James Ashmead, a brother of John. The Ashmeads came from Cheltenham, England, in 1682. The first

marriage in the family here, was soon afterwards, with a Sellers at Darby. Before long they had gotten to Cheltenham, Penna., whence in 1711, or perhaps some years earlier, they came to Germantown. A John Ashmead of that early time built on the site of 4790, but only the rear building stands, as the front part was replaced about 1790. The present occupant of the premises, which bear the two Nos. 4790 and 4792, is a great-great-grand-daughter of the John Ashmead last mentioned.

In his early life, Count von Zinzendorf exhibited a strongly marked religious tendency. While yet a child, he used to write little letters to the Saviour, and throw them out of the window, hoping that the Lord might find them. When ten years old he was sent to the Academy of Halle, then under the direction of its founder, the devout Franke. Here he established pious meetings, and founded a mystic order of the "Mustard Seed." It was while he was residing in the Ashmead House that he made a formal renunciation of his rank and title as Count Zinzendorf, before Governor Thomas. This was on the 26th of May, 1742. It arose from a desire to be disencumbered from the forms and ceremonies that necessarily attended rank, and which might prove embarrassing in his ministry, in which he was known as Brother Ludwig. This unusual act excited much remark and speculation. The meeting at which it occurred took place in the Governor's house, where the following persons were present: The Governor, Dr. Thomas Graeme, Judge; William Allen, Recorder; Tench Francis, Attorney General; James Hamilton, Prothonotary Court Common Pleas; Thomas Lawrence, J. P.; Dr. Patrick Bard, the Governor's Secretary, William Peters, James Read, the Rev. Eneas Ross, Rector of Christ Church; the Rev. J. C. Pyrlaeus, of the Moravian Church; John Stephen Benezet, John Sober, Graydon, Samuel McCall, Charles Willing, Benjamin Franklin, and Charles Brockden.

At the southern corner of Schoolhouse Lane stands a large double house of dressed stone, No. 4794. "Bensell's father and old Anthony Johnson both confirmed the fact that the ancient house there, which Dr. Bensell pulled down, was a

house preached in by William Penn. It was low and built of framework, filled in with brick. It was built first for Jacob Tellner, one of the town magistrates." Dr. Ashmead remembers that a few years ago some workmen found under the sidewalk the stone foundation of the old house. The present building was erected about 1795, by Dr. George Bensell for his residence. The woodwork and wainscoting are excellent. As others of the Bensell's are to be mentioned hereafter, it will be convenient to speak of them together. In later years the house was occupied by Charles W. Churchman, recently by Dr. George Malin, and now it is the quarters of the Workingmen's Club.

Along Schoolhouse Lane, or, as it was anciently called, Bensell's Lane, the land is somewhat of a dividing ridge, and so of course it was the route of the Indian Trail from the Wingohocking to the Wissahickon. It is not very far to Green Street, and fortunately I am now able to say how its name came about. Years ago it was a street from Manheim north, for about three hundred yards, but there was little or no use of it. The grass grew luxuriantly, and sheep fed there, so that the sward was exceedingly rich, and the people called it "Green." From time to time the street was opened further north, preserving this name, until at last it reached as far as to Carpenter's Lane. The old family of hatters and the General of the Revolution are, therefore, not to be credited with this honour.

On the south side of Schoolhouse Lane, beyond Green Street, is the Germantown Academy. Its organization was on the first of January, 1760, and in the following year the buildings were completed. In Sept. 1761, Hilarius Becker made his appearance as the German teacher, with seventy pupils, and David James Dove as the English teacher with sixty-one pupils. Although the mass of the people used the German language, these numbers show that those of the English speaking tongue were rapidly creeping on them. Dove's mode of reclaiming truants was to send in search of them a committee of boys, with a lighted lantern and a bell. This they rang as they went about the town, and soon they would

bring the culprits back filled with shame. Dove remained but a few years, and was succeeded by Pelatiah Webster. It is probable that this gentleman is the same who was graduated at Yale in 1746, and died here in 1795, and that he was the author of "Political Essays on the Nature and Operation of Money, Public Finances," etc., in 1791. On p. 187 of that volume he gives a short account of what he suffered by reason of the occupation of the city by the British. The progress of the Academy was most satisfactory, for in 1764, Greek, Latin, and the higher mathematics were taught. Just before the Revolution additional ground, in the rear of the lot, was obtained. As the Revolution approached, and, at last, swept over them, the school became troubled, so much so, that at times there were long intervals between meetings of the Trustees. After the celebrated battle the Academy was used by the British as a hospital. Some twenty feet to the east of the back part of its grounds, in what was formerly the end of Deshler's lot, is the burial place of six British soldiers who died from their wounds, and whose interment was witnessed by John Ashmead, the active boy spoken of as emerging from the cellar of the old Delaplaine house.

After the war there was a revival, slow, however, of the affairs of the Academy. In the yellow fever of 1793, proposals for an occupation of the building came from the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and also from the Congress of the United States. The Trustees seem to have given the first choice to Congress, on the rather easy terms of the restoration of "one hundred and four panes of glass, two window shutters, two door linings, three door locks, the steps front and back of new wood, the hearths to be laid with new bricks, sundry patchings and whitewashing, for which repairs, and no others, the sum of sixty dollars will be allowed out of the rent, which is to be three hundred dollars for one session." In the yellow fever of 1798 the use of the lower floor and cellar was granted to the Banks of North America and Pennsylvania, they agreeing in compensation to paint the building and to renew its roof. What have been mentioned are about the only mishaps in a career of one hun-

dred and twenty years, and they can hardly be complained of when it is considered that the condition of the Academy has long been most satisfactory. During last year additions were made to the buildings.

Above the belfry of this old school-house is a vane, never yet disturbed, and surmounting it is the royal crown of England. Good taste, throughout a century of change, has preserved this, perhaps the only crown in the whole country, as an appropriate relic of colonial days. A bell for the Academy was brought from England in the tea ship Polly, Captain Ayres, about the beginning of the year 1774. The Philadelphians would not permit the tea to be landed, but, respecting the laws, they did not throw it overboard. The vessel, its bulk not broken, lay for a time in a stream below, perhaps Salem Creek, and then returned to England. After the war the bell came here again. In aftertimes a fracture occurred, and it became necessary to recast it, but the original metal was used with only some little addition. In the library of the school is a spy-glass which Washington used at the Battle of Germantown.

Where the next house, to the west, stands, is the site of the school commenced by David J. Dove when he differed with the Trustees, and left the Academy. His effort had but a brief existence. In 1777 the house was the residence of John Miller, a magistrate, who kept a diary of the stirring events which occurred during the time the British Army occupied Germantown and Philadelphia. The diary was of twenty pages, quarto, commencing on the 18th of September, 1777, and continued until the 18th of June, 1778, which was the day upon which the American Army re-entered upon the possession of Philadelphia. This diary was seen by John F. Watson, and possibly may still be in existence. Its publication, entire, would be of much interest. The house, large, and of striking appearance, became the property and summer residence of Wm. Chancellor, son of Dr. Wm. Chancellor, who married Salome, daughter of John Wister. Their grandson, Henry Chancellor, who married Caroline Clapier,

lived there some fifty years ago, as the following from the late John J. Smith may show:—

"The Germantown Road of Mr. Ward proves a capital theme. Will he permit a pertinent story? It was very long before any public conveyance connected Germantown with Philadelphia; the Bethlehem stage and a lumbering concern from the 'Broad Axe,' in Montgomery County, came through leisurely once a day, and by carefully waiting on the street, if there happened to be room, it was possible to get a 'cast.' If not you might wait till better luck a day or two hence turned up. So lately as just before the introduction of the railroad, in 1832, Mr. Henry Chancellor moved to Germantown, unaware of its great isolation. Having occasion to go to the city, he mounted the outside of the Broad Axe coach early in the day; what was his mortification to find that the vehicle stopped at the Rising Sun, about half way, to give the passengers breakfast! This was Mr. Chancellor's favorite story."

Dr. Frailey, a water-cure doctor of his day, dwelt in a very old stone house, which stood on Schoolhouse Lane, some three hundred feet, or more, beyond Chancellor's. On each side of his house were lines of German poetry, painted in oil colours, some of the marks of which were visible forty years ago. The lines on one side were—

"Lass Neider neiden,
Lass hasser hassen;
Was Gott mir giebt.
Muss man mir lassen."

Beyond Dr. Frailey's, in what at one time was called "Ashmead's Field near the woods," a large body of Hessians were hutted. Their huts were constructed of the rails from fences, set up at an angle of 45°, resting on a crossbeam centre; over these were laid straw, and, above the straw, grass-sod. They were close and warm. Those for the officers had wicker doors, with a glass light, and interwoven with plaited straw. They had also chimneys made of grass-sod. They, no doubt, had made these preparations with the view to pass the winter there, but the battle broke up their plans. One of these

Hessians afterwards became Washington's coachman. In speaking of Hessians it may not be inappropriate to give an opinion, recently expressed, here, by a gentleman of liberal education and of much observation. He is Professor J. C. Bruner, a Swiss by birth, and a fellow-pupil of Louis Napoleon at Basle, and until recently a teacher in Philadelphia and Germantown. He said that while in this country he met many persons in Pennsylvania and in the Valley of Virginia, who were descendants of the Hessian soldiers who had come here in the service of the British Army, and who, by desertion or otherwise, had remained here. From his intimate knowledge of families, and their names, in Switzerland, Mr. Bruner was satisfied, as he said, that these descendants were generally of Swiss origin. His view of the subject was, that the Duke of Hesse-Cassel, desiring to save his own people, sought recruits in Switzerland, and palmed them off on George III. as good, honest Germans of Hesse-Cassel.

In the earlier part of this century, John Coulter, an East India merchant, a director of the United States Bank, and a man of note of that day, owned one hundred acres of land lying east of the Township Line Road, and extending southwardly from Schoolhouse Lane to beyond Indian Queen Lane. Misfortune followed his many efforts to retain the property. A large boarding house, and a most excellent one, was conducted by some of his family. This enabled him to hold a portion of the property, and to prevent its becoming an entire wreck. At the S. E. corner of Schoolhouse Lane and the Township Line Road, perhaps, therefore, on this property, is now the handsome seat of Mr. E. W. Clark. In returning to the avenue we pass along the northern side of the lane. Just to the east of opposite the Academy, is a building of wood, in a neat inclosure. It belongs to that part of Friends who are not styled Orthodox.